



## Secret Service's next challenge: Keeping scores of world leaders safe at the U.N. General Assembly

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Below United Nations headquarters, a state-of-the-art security post dubbed the "Brain Center" hums with activity on the eve of next week's high-level meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. The annual diplomatic pilgrimage is bringing more than 140 world leaders to New York City, including the leaders of Israel, the Palestinians and Ukraine.

Keeping them safe is the U.S. Secret Service's next big challenge. The agency, under a cloud after a July assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump, is confident in its multi-layer, multi-agency plan to protect the U.N. General Assembly, which is deemed a Super Bowl-level National Special Security Event.



Security Inspector Malinda McCormack speaks on the phone during a tour of the UN Security Operations Center inside the United Nations Headquarters, Friday Sept. 20, 2024.

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Associated Press

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## Are Trump and Harris particularly Christian? That's not what most Americans would say: AP-NORC poll

By **HOLLY MEYER, PETER SMITH and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX**

**Associated Press**

Vice President Kamala Harris is a Baptist who was influenced by religious traditions in her mother's home country of India.

Former President Donald Trump grew up a mainline Presbyterian but began identifying as a nondenom-

inational Christian near the end of his presidency.

Despite that, few Americans see the presidential candidates as particularly Christian, according to a new survey conducted Sept. 12-16 by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. Only 14% of U.S. adults say the word "Christian" describes Harris or Trump "extremely" or

"very" well.

Strikingly, that appears to matter little to part of Trump's loyal base: white evangelical Protestants. About 7 in 10 members of this group view him favorably. But only about half say Trump best represents their beliefs — around 1 in 10 say this about Harris, and one-third say neither candidate represents their reli-



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris shake hands before the start of an ABC News presidential debate at the National Constitution Center, Sept. 10, 2024, in Philadelphia.

**Associated Press**

gious beliefs — and around 2 in 10 say "Christian" describes him extremely or very well. "They really don't care about, is he religious or not," said R. Marie Griffith, a religion and politics professor at Washington University in St. Louis.

The survey results represent the shift in how white evangelicals now talk about morality and religion in politics, said Griffith. She pointed to a white evangelical culture that takes care of its own, but sees liberal outsiders as evil, and therefore, support for a Democrat is unimaginable to many.

Evangelical leaders, she said, are pushing this idea that, "this is God's man, and we can't ask why. We don't have to ask why. It doesn't matter if he's moral, it doesn't matter if he's religious. It doesn't matter if he lies compulsively. It's for the greater good that we get him re-elected."

At the Republican National Convention, Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, a conservative Christian and Trump's former White House press secretary, invoked God when she addressed the first assassina-

tion attempt against him.

"God Almighty intervened because America is one nation under God, and he is certainly not finished with President Trump," she said. "And our country is better for it." Anthea Butler, professor of religious studies at the University of Pennsylvania, said white evangelicals likely see him as instrumental to their goals, such as his appointment of conservative, anti-abortion justices to the Supreme Court.

For the head of the Democratic ticket, a large majority — three-quarters — of Harris' fellow Black Protestants view her favorably and 6 in 10 say she best represents their religious beliefs. But only around 4 in 10 say "Christian" describes her very or extremely well. That's still higher than the share of Democrats overall who think this about Harris, at around one-quarter.

Butler is not surprised that esteem for Trump is low among Black Protestants, and that they are more likely to see Harris, a Baptist with influences from the spiritual tradition of her mother's native India, as Christian. □



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# Secret Service's next challenge: Keeping scores of world leaders safe at the U.N. General Assembly

Continued from Front

The plan — developed with New York City police and the U.N. Security and Safety Service, among other agencies — includes not just motorcades and protective details, but NYPD helicopters and patrol boats, a dozen U.N. security K-9 teams sweeping for explosives, road closures and traffic diversions. The Secret Service is bringing in agents from posts around the world for the event. The Coast Guard is restricting East River access near the U.N. and the Federal Aviation Administration is closing airspace.

With so many presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and others dignitaries in one city and under one roof at the same time, the U.N. General Assembly is actually bigger than the Super Bowl. It's the most complex event the Secret Service is involved in each year.

This year, it's coming during a especially busy stretch highlighted by the Republican and Democratic conventions and the final weeks of the presidential campaign. Speaking Monday after the Secret Service thwarted another apparent assassination attempt on Trump in Florida, Acting Director Ronald L. Rowe Jr. said employees were "redlining" like an engine pushed to its limit. But, he said, "they are rising to this moment" and meeting the challenges.

"The operational tempo is incredibly high," said Patrick



Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Patrick Freaney speaks at a news conference outside the United Nations Headquarters, Friday Sept. 20, 2024.

Freaney, the special agent in charge of the Secret Service's New York field office. The Associated Press got a rare look inside security preparations for the U.N. General Assembly, known as UNGA, including the "Brain Center" and a joint operations center that lets the Secret Service, NYPD and other agencies communicate instantly to root out threats and logistical snags. They're also coordinating with the foreign security services that protect each of the dignitaries.

Freaney said the National Special Security Event designation — for special events of national significance — smooths the way for interagency planning, communication and coop-

eration. The Secret Service is in charge, but the NYPD's robust counterterrorism and other operations, and the U.N.'s 300-person Security and Safety Service, play pivotal roles.

"We have over 140 heads of state, heads of government that we're moving around the city," Freaney said during a tour of the joint operations center, which has space for 10 local and federal agencies, including the FBI and Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State and Defense departments.

"One of the most important things is bringing all of them in here and then departing safely," Freaney said. "Think about that logistically —

bringing 140 motorcades into one area all at the same time. This plays an integral part of bringing those details in safely."

The Secret Service, NYPD and State Department will also be operating their own command centers — in Brooklyn, at One Police Plaza in Manhattan and at a nearby hotel ballroom. The NYPD, the nation's largest police force, has its Joint Operations Center equipped to give officers real-time feeds from security, drone and helicopter-mounted cameras, along with other critical information.

The U.N. Security and Safety Service, which is in charge of keeping the U.N. headquarters campus secure, has its

command post in the "Brain Center."

Down a basement hall from the main hub of U.N. activity, wall-to-wall monitors show live feeds from dozens of the 1,400 security cameras on the 18-acre (7.2-hectare) headquarters campus. All are recorded and can be reviewed instantly. Automated voices alert potential breaches and emergencies. Computers generate real-time data and photos for each of upwards of 22,000 people who pass through security checkpoints per day. Fire alarms tie directly into the city's central dispatch system for immediate response. The command post is staffed around the clock by U.N. security officers who work in 12-hour shifts while world leaders are in town.

The goal, Inspector Malinda McCormack said, is to receive, analyze and quickly disseminate information.

Security plans for UNGA started to take shape a few months ago. The Secret Service and its partner agencies use past gatherings — this is the 79th edition — as a blueprint, while making adjustments for changing world events such as the wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

"There's an incredible trust," said Michael Browne, chief of the U.N. Security and Safety Service. "There's incredible sense of collegiality and collaboration, which I think is a key ingredient for success in a very complex and challenging operation such as UNGA." □

## Trump says, if he loses, 2024 run will be his last

By The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he doesn't "think" he'd run again for president in 2028 if he falls short in his bid to return to the White House in 2024. "No, I don't. I think that will be, that will be it," Trump said when journalist Sharyl Attkisson asked him if he'd run again.

The comment was notable both because Trump seemed to rule out a fourth

bid for the White House and because he rarely admits the possibility he could legitimately lose an election. Trump normally insists that could only happen if there were widespread cheating, a false allegation he made in 2020 and he's preemptively made again during his 2024 presidential campaign.

Trump would be 82 in 2028, a year older than President Joe Biden is now. Biden bowed out of the race in July fol-

lowing his disastrous debate performance and months of being hammered by Trump and other conservatives as being too old and erratic for the job.

Attkisson interviewed Trump for her show "Full Measure." Also during the 22-minute interview, Trump defended his record on the coronavirus pandemic. He took credit for the development of the COVID-19 vaccines developed during his presidency



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump dances after speaking at a campaign rally at Wilmington International Airport, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, in Wilmington, N.C.

Associated Press

while also saying "they're doing studies on the vaccines

and we're going to find out if they are safe." □



# Spending deal averts a possible federal shutdown and funds the government into December

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Congressional leaders announced an agreement Sunday on a short-term spending bill that will fund federal agencies for about three months, averting a possible partial government shutdown when the new budget year begins Oct. 1 and pushing final decisions until after the November election. Temporary spending bills generally fund agencies at current levels, but an additional \$231 million was included to bolster the Secret Service, and additional money was added to replenish a disaster relief fund and aid with the presidential transition, among other things.

Lawmakers have struggled to get to this point as the current budget year winds to a close at month's end. At the urging of the most conservative members of his conference, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., had linked temporary funding with a mandate that would have compelled states to require proof of citizenship when people register to vote. But Johnson could not get all Republicans on board even as the party's presidential nominee, Donald Trump, insisted on that package. Trump said Republican lawmakers should not support a stop-gap measure without the voting requirement, but



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., walks to a meeting at the Capitol in Washington, Sept. 11, 2024.

the bill went down to defeat anyway, with 14 Republicans opposing it. Bipartisan negotiations began in earnest shortly after that, with leadership agreeing to extend funding into mid-December. That gives the current Congress the ability to fashion a full-year spending bill after the Nov. 5 election, rather than push that responsibility to the next Congress and president. In a letter to Republican colleagues, Johnson said the budget measure would be "very narrow, bare-bones" and include "only the ex-

tensions that are absolutely necessary." "While this is not the solution any of us prefer, it is the most prudent path forward under the present circumstances," Johnson wrote. "As history has taught and current polling affirms, shutting the government down less than 40 days from a fateful election would be an act of political malpractice." House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said Democrats would evaluate the bill in its entirety before this week's vote, but with the agreement, "Congress is now on

a bipartisan path to avoid a government shutdown that would hurt everyday Americans." Rep. Tom Cole, the House Appropriations Committee chairman, had said on Friday that talks were going well. "So far, nothing has come up that we can't deal with," said Cole, R-Okla. "Most people don't want a government shutdown and they don't want that to interfere with the election. So nobody is like, 'I've got to have this or we're walking.' It's just not that way." Johnson's earlier effort had no

chance in the Democratic-controlled Senate and was opposed by the White House, but it did give the speaker a chance to show Trump and conservatives within his conference that he fought for their request.

The final result — government funding effectively on autopilot — was what many had predicted. With the election just weeks away, few lawmakers in either party had any appetite for the brinkmanship that often leads to a shutdown.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said the same agreement could have been reached two weeks ago, but "Speaker Johnson chose to follow the MAGA way and wasted precious time."

As I have said throughout this process, there is only one way to get things done, with bipartisan, bicameral support," Schumer said.

Now a bipartisan majority is expected to push the short-term measure over the finish line this week. The agreement on the short-term measure does not mean getting to a final spending bill will be easy in December. The election results could also influence the political calculations if one party fares much better than the other, potentially pushing the fight into early next year. □



A plastic bag sits along a roadside in Sacramento, Calif., Oct. 25, 2013.

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — "Paper or plastic" will no longer be a choice at grocery store checkout lines in California under a new law signed Sunday by Gov. Gavin Newsom that bans

all plastic shopping bags. California had already banned thin plastic shopping bags at supermarkets and other stores, but shoppers could purchase bags made with a thicker plas-

## California governor signs law banning all plastic shopping bags at grocery stores

tic that purportedly made them reusable and recyclable. The new measure, approved by state legislators last month, bans all plastic shopping bags starting in 2026. Consumers who don't bring their own bags will now simply be asked if they want a paper bag. State Sen. Catherine Blakespear, one of the bill's supporters, said people were not reusing or recycling any plastic bags. She pointed to a state study that found that the amount of plastic shopping bags trashed per person grew from 8 pounds (3.6 ki-

lograms) per year in 2004 to 11 pounds (5 kilograms) per year in 2021. Blakespear, a Democrat from Encinitas, said the previous bag ban passed a decade ago didn't reduce the overall use of plastic. "We are literally choking our planet with plastic waste," she said in February. The environmental nonprofit Oceana applauded Newsom for signing the bill and "safeguarding California's coastline, marine life, and communities from single-use plastic grocery bags." Christy Leavitt, Oceana's

plastics campaign director, said Sunday that the new ban on single-use plastic bags at grocery store checkouts "solidifies California as a leader in tackling the global plastic pollution crisis."

Twelve states, including California, already have some type of statewide plastic bag ban in place, according to the environmental advocacy group Environment America Research & Policy Center. Hundreds of cities across 28 states also have their own plastic bag bans in place. □



## 21 wounded after Russia strikes apartment buildings in Ukrainian city of Kharkiv

By SAMYA KULLAB

Associated Press

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)** — Russia launched new strikes in the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv that hit high-rise apartment buildings, leaving at least 21 wounded in a second consecutive nighttime attack, authorities said.

The bombs fell Saturday night on the district of Shevchenkivsky, north of the center of Kharkiv, which is the second-largest Ukrainian city, local Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Residential buildings sustained varying degrees of damage, including 16- and nine-story buildings, he added. Kharkiv's city council said that 18 buildings were damaged.

The wounded included an 8-year-old child, according to Syniehubov and Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov. Terekhov said that 60 residents were evacuated from one of the buildings, a high-rise that was hit directly.

Kharkiv has been a frequent target of Russian attacks since Moscow launched its all-out invasion of neighboring Ukraine in February 2022. On late Friday, 15 people, including children ages 10 and 12, were wounded when Russian airstrikes hit three Kharkiv neighborhoods, Terekhov said.

Zelenskyy appeals for more weapons

Ukrainian officials said that KAB-type aerial glide bombs — a retrofitted Soviet weapon that has for months laid waste to eastern Ukraine — were used in both attacks.



Emergency services workers move rubble after a Russian strike on a residential building in Kharkiv, Ukraine early Sunday Sept. 22, 2024.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the strike and urged Kyiv's Western allies to send more weapons to help it "protect lives and ensure safety."

"Ukraine needs full long-range capabilities, and we are working to convince our partners of this," Zelenskyy said on X, as he prepared to kick off a busy week in the United States shoring up support for Kyiv in the war.

And Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov said Sunday that Kyiv was in talks with partners in Europe to secure Swedish-made Gripen and European Eurofighter Typhoon jets. Umerov said that commitments were already in place for deliveries of U.S.-made F-16s and

French Mirages.

Russia sends drones and missiles elsewhere in Ukraine

Russia also launched 80 Shaded drones and two missiles at Ukraine overnight into Sunday, the Ukrainian air force said. Ukrainian defenses shot down 71 drones, and another six were lost on location because of electronic warfare countermeasures, the statement said.

Farther south, a 12-year-old girl and a woman died after a Russian drone struck a passenger car in the city of Nikopol, local Gov. Serhii Lysak reported. Two others, including a 4-year-old child, suffered wounds.

In the eastern Donetsk region, a Russian airstrike on Sunday morning struck

homes in the city of Sloviansk, trapping a woman under rubble and wounding two of her neighbors, regional prosecutors reported.

In the same province, two miners died and one other person was injured late Saturday after Russian forces shelled a mine west of the city of Pokrovsk, local Gov. Vadym Filashkin and Ukraine's Energy Ministry reported.

Pokrovsk and Sloviansk have both been key targets for Russian forces as they continue their grinding push westwards aimed at capturing the entirety of Ukraine's industrial east.

In southern Ukraine, a Russian drone strike on Sunday morning wounded two civilians in

the city of Kherson, regional authorities said. Hours later, police reported that Russian attacks wounded at least four more people elsewhere in the province.

Other Russian drone attacks Sunday damaged energy infrastructure in Ukraine's central Poltava region and the northern city of Shostka, officials reported.

Shostka lies in the Sumy region, across the border from Russia's Kursk province — the target of a startling Ukrainian military incursion launched last month. Weeks into the incursion, Zelenskyy said that the aim is to create a buffer zone to prevent further Russian cross-border strikes that have for months wreaked havoc in Sumy.

Around 10,000 residents have left the nearby town of Hlukhiv because of intensified Russian shelling, around a third of its prewar population, the local military administration said Sunday.

That includes almost 70% of the town's children, following the regional government's calls to evacuate parts of the Sumy region nearest the Russian border. Hlukhiv lies less than 15 kilometers (9 miles) from Russian territory, and about 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of Shostka. Ukrainian troops strike at Russian targets

Also on Sunday, a firefighter was killed and two others were injured by a Ukrainian drone in the Russia-occupied Luhansk province in eastern Ukraine, the Russian Emergency Services Ministry said. □

Associated Press

## Premier says Albania will grant sovereignty to Bektashi Muslims in Tirana, similar to the Vatican

By LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press

**TIRANA, Albania (AP)** — Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama said Sunday his country would transform the Tirana-based Bektashi Muslims, an Islamic Sufi order, into a sovereign state to promote moderation, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

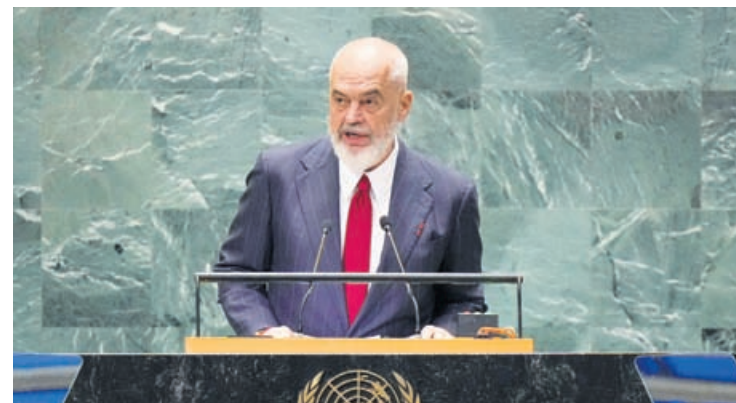
Speaking at the United Nations, Rama pointed out that Albania, a tiny Western

Balkan country, saved Jewish refugees from the Nazis during World War II and sheltered Afghans after the Taliban came to power three years ago.

Albanians are also proud of giving to the world Mother Teresa who "embodied love for humanity," he said. "She told us that not all of us can do big things, but we can all do small things with big love," he said. "That is our inspiration in support-

ing the transformation of the World Bektashi Order into a sovereign state in our capital, Tirana, as a new center of moderation, tolerance and peaceful co-existence."

Albania's 2.4-million population is about 50% Muslim with the rest of the population Catholic and Orthodox Christians and other smaller communities. The country is known for its religious harmony and co-existence.



The Prime Minister of Albania Edi Rama speaks to the United Nations General Assembly during Summit of the Future, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024 at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press

Bektashi Muslims make up about 10% of the Muslims in the country, according to the last census. □



# U.S. not responsible for surge of violence in Sinaloa, American ambassador tells Mexico

By **MEGAN JANETSKY**

**Associated Press**

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — U.S. Ambassador Ken Salazar rejected accusations by Mexico's president that the U.S. was partly responsible for a surge in cartel warfare in northern Sinaloa over the weekend. Sinaloa has been eclipsed by violence as two warring factions of the Sinaloa cartel have clashed in the state capital of Culiacan in what appears to be a fight for power since two of its leaders were arrested in the U.S. in late July.

"It is incomprehensible how the United States can be responsible for the massacres we see in different places," Salazar said in a news conference in Chihuahua on Saturday. "What is being seen in Sinaloa is not the fault of the United States."

The arrests startled many because it appeared that the son of notorious drug kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán abducted an elder cartel figure, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, and flew them both to the U.S. to be detained. Such a violent outburst was expected in the wake of the arrests.

As the warring cartel factions and authorities have clashed in firefights, helicopters regularly circle overhead and military rove the streets of the capital. Families have said



**A blue sheet covers a body found lying on the side of a road in Culiacan, Sinaloa state, Mexico, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024.**

they are scared to send their children to school. Meanwhile, bodies have appeared across the city, often left slung out on the streets or in cars with either sombreros on their heads or pizza slices or boxes pegged onto them with knives. The pizzas and sombreros have become informal symbols for the warring cartel factions, underscoring the brutality of their warfare.

Local authorities said that as of Friday at least 53 people had been killed and 51 others have gone missing in

Sinaloa state since the fighting started.

On Thursday, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador blamed American authorities in part for the bloodshed.

Asked at his morning briefing if the U.S. government was "jointly responsible" for this violence in Sinaloa, the president said, "Yes, of course ... for having carried out this operation."

"If we are now facing instability and clashes in Sinaloa, it is because (the American government) made that de-

cision," López Obrador said. López Obrador claimed American authorities "carried out that operation" to capture Zambada and that "it was totally illegal, and agents from the Department of Justice were waiting for Mr. Mayo."

Salazar had previously denied that American officials were involved in the alleged kidnapping.

It was the latest blow to bilateral relations between the two regional allies.

Last month, López Obrador — a populist prone to lash-

ing out at critics — said he was putting relations with the U.S. and Canadian embassies "on pause" after ambassadors criticized his controversial plan to overhaul Mexico's judiciary by requiring all judges to stand for election.

Still, the Zambada capture has fueled criticisms of López Obrador, who has throughout his administration refused to confront the cartels and has falsely stated that cartels respect Mexican citizens and largely fight amongst themselves.

Under López Obrador, who leaves office at the end of this month, cartels have employed an increasing array of weapons and tactics, including roadside bombs, trenches, home-made armored vehicles and bomb-dropping drones. The criminal organizations have also seeped into new industries such as migrant smuggling and the lucrative avocado business.

While Mexican authorities said Saturday they had sent an additional 600 soldiers to Sinaloa as reinforcements, Salazar cast blame for the surge of violence in the state on Mexico's wider security crisis.

"The reality is that there is a problem of insecurity and violence" in Mexico, Salazar said. □

**Associated Press**



**In this photo released by Iranian Red Crescent Society, miners and police officers are seen at the site of a coal mine where methane leak sparked an explosion on Saturday, in Tabas, some 540 kilometers (335 miles) southeastern of the capital, Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

By **NASSER KARIMI**

**Associated Press**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — An

explosion in a coal mine in eastern Iran killed at least 34 workers and injured 17

## An explosion at a coal mine in eastern Iran kills at least 34 workers

others, officials said Sunday, marking one of the worst mining disasters in the country's history as others remained missing hours after the blast.

The blast struck a coal mine in Tabas, about 540 kilometers (335 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran, on Saturday night. By Sunday, weeping miners stood alongside mine cars that brought up the bodies of their colleagues, all covered in coal dust.

Around 70 people had been working at the time of the blast. State television later said that 17 were

believed to be trapped at a depth of 200 meters (650 feet) down a 700-meter (2,300-foot) tunnel. However, figures kept changing throughout Sunday regarding the disaster in the rural area with some reports suggesting the death toll was higher.

A provincial emergency official, Mohammad Ali Akhoundi, told the state-run IRNA news agency Sunday afternoon that the death toll had reached at least 34 as rescue efforts continued. Survivors interviewed by state TV, still smudged in coal dust, described cha-

otic scenes after the blast. "We were in the mine, working. Suddenly there was some smoke rising ... then I noticed I had difficulty breathing," said one miner, whom state TV did not identify. "I jumped off from the workshop and I scrambled until I reached somewhere (safe). My friends (remained) in there."

Authorities blamed the blast on a leak of methane gas. Such gases are common in mining, though modern safety measures call for ventilation and other measures to protect workers. □



## The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.



Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the as-

signment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but



Administration Buildings at Gold-plant



used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at

the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.

## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

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## Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba



**ORANJESTAD** – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses.

Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your

gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you're wanting to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

### Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

### Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot



for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

### Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

### Hadicurari

Known locally as Fisherman's Hut, here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

### Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □

**Pirate Dinner**

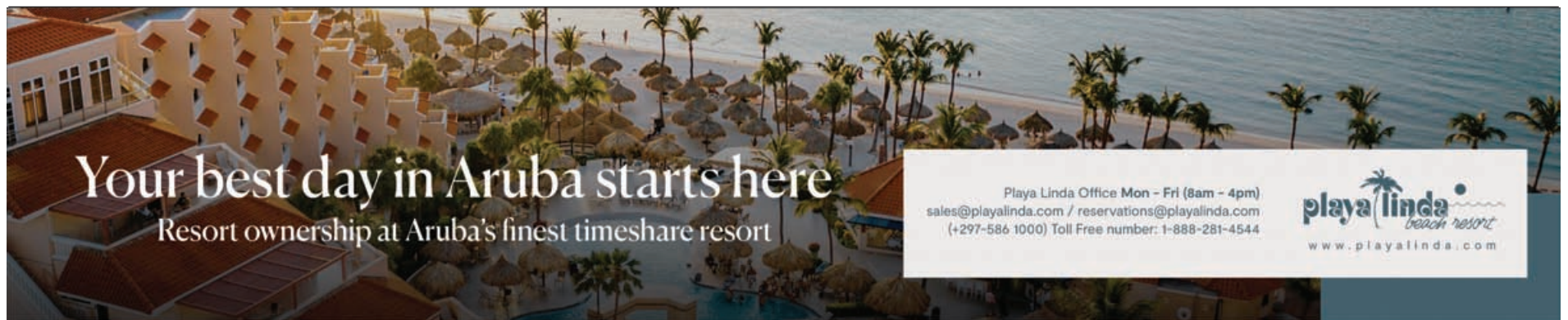
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## Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

**At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.**

Where to Find the Anchor?  
The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach. Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

### About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall. On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos. This type of anchor was man-

ufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

### Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

#### Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

#### Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

### How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

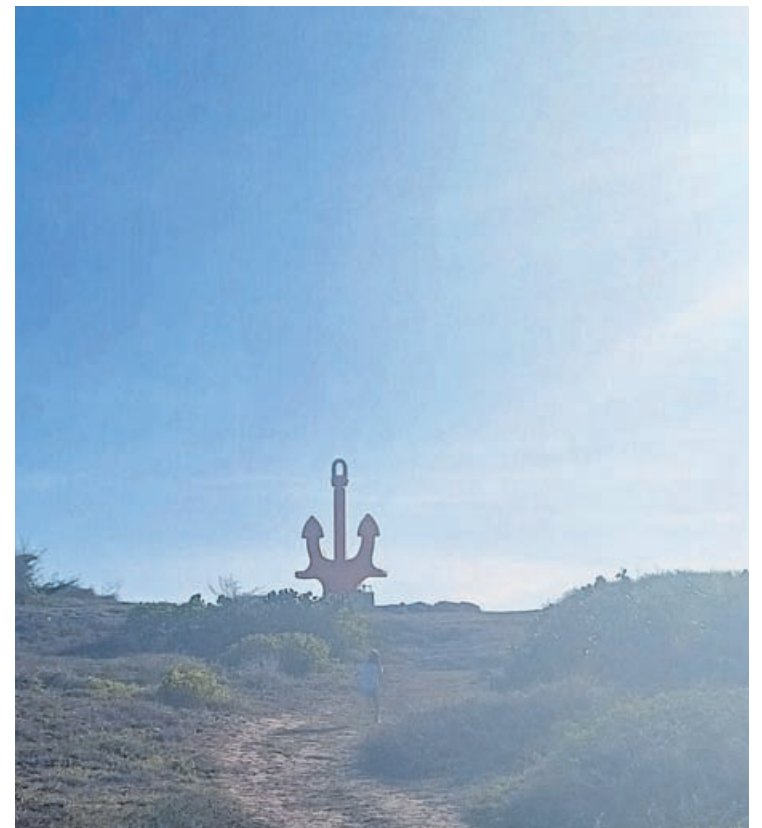
Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

### Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor



**Pic caption: The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas**

monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

### The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the

island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

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# Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD** – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.



## Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

## Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its



little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing. The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitos, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4-5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.



The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

## Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

## Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally



as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

**Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.**



# Restoration of local monument, Cas Veneranda, begins today

ORANJESTAD – During the celebration of Open Day of Monuments in Aruba, Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA) and ministers of the local government proudly announced the beginning of the restoration of Cas Veneranda, located in Wilhelminastraat 7.

After a lot of preparations, since last week there is a lot of activity at Cas Veneranda. The first step was to obtain funds from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in order to reach a purchasing agreement with the original owner of Cas Veneranda. After the minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Wever received approval from the Parliament of Aruba, the second step was the preparations to sign the purchasing agreement with the family of the original owner, a sign contracts for rental. Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry DEACI will be the main tenant, and there will also be a hospitality establishment on the area on the side of Schoolstraat.

Regarding the design of the project, Hoevertsz ArchiDesign NV was selected as an architect, and together with the project leader



from SMFA, they guided the building team, consisting of Pro-tec for airconditioning, Rotech/Hecom for electricity, Smart Systems for security, and Dynaf for solar power. These contractors were involved in the process of design from the very beginning.

In the same period, the minister of Culture, Mrs. Xiomara Maduro together with Monumentenbureau started with the legal protection for the monument, to ensure that the history of the monument will be preserved forever and it will stay alive. SMFA started with the project "Tales of Cas Veneranda," where one and all can share pic-

tures and stories from antiquity at the monumental house.

The third step was the tender and execution of the first phase of the project: demolition. During the last years, a lot was added to the building that was not originally there. There was also a fire in 2014, which caused a lot of damage. Contractor General Property Services did a great job removing anything 'modern' from the monument. During the sloop phase, a lot more history of the monument was discovered. It is impressive to see how smart and creative the architect, Dada Picus, was back then. Remember that back when the building was constructed, there weren't any power tools or other modern tools to help the builders.

When the demolition was completed, the construction team could complete the drawings, plans and tenders for the second phase: restoration, which just began. This month an agreement was reached with contractor Jash Development NV, which in the past has already restored another monument for SMFA: Nicolaas Store in San Nicolas. Now, Jash Development NV together with other members of the construction team will restore Cas Veneranda. The restoration work will begin today, after the construction site was prepared, and it is expected to be completed by the end of november 2025.

chi's wife, Maria Veneranda, was charmed by, and so he came to Aruba back to build this building, which now we know as Cas Veneranda. At the time, this was one of the biggest houses built in Aruba.

Besides being a residential building, it was here that the first Super Ice cream show was located, as well as the first location for known craft store, Masyfral.

Oncha's flowerhop and the Consulate of Spain were also located in the building. At the end of the 1970s, the building was converted into Papiamentto Restaurant. During the two last years there, the restaurant also operated as a night club, Club Nouveau, after the restaurant closed at night. When Papiamentto Restaurant left the building at the end of 1990, the building was vacated.

In 2023, SMFA reached a purchasing agreement with Machi Arends' heir, and in March of 2024 the official handover for the building was completed, so that restoration could begin. This project is co-financed by the General Pension Funds of Aruba (APFA) together with the Restoration Fund of the Netherlands (NRF), and the ministry of Economic Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Development. After the restoration, the monument will become the offices of DEACI and also have a space for hospitality. □



The last step will take place at the end of 2025 or beginning of 2026, when the tenants will move into the monument. Then, SMFA will remain involved in the management of the building

## Cas Veneranda

The very impacting building in Wilhelminastraat was built in 1936 by Federico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends, who was the consul of Spain.

The architect was known master builder Dada Picus, who went all the way to Colombia to find inspiration from a building that Ma-





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

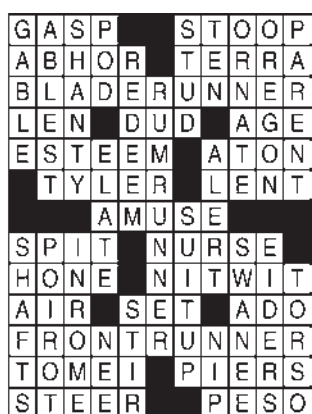
## ACROSS

- 1 Letter before Bravo
- 5 Back teeth
- 11 Con man's trick
- 12 Mideast peninsula
- 13 Basilica part
- 14 Garden pavilion
- 15 Track act
- 16 Ballet leap
- 17 Full moon, for one
- 19 Tyler of "Armageddon"
- 22 Chinese or Thai
- 24 Black card
- 26 Brooklyn team
- 27 Cruise stop
- 28 Marina sight
- 30 Mink's cousin
- 31 Bat material
- 32 Team
- 34 Close
- 35 Tick off
- 38 Thorny shrub
- 41 Leave speechless
- 42 "Apollo 13" director
- 43 Teen woe

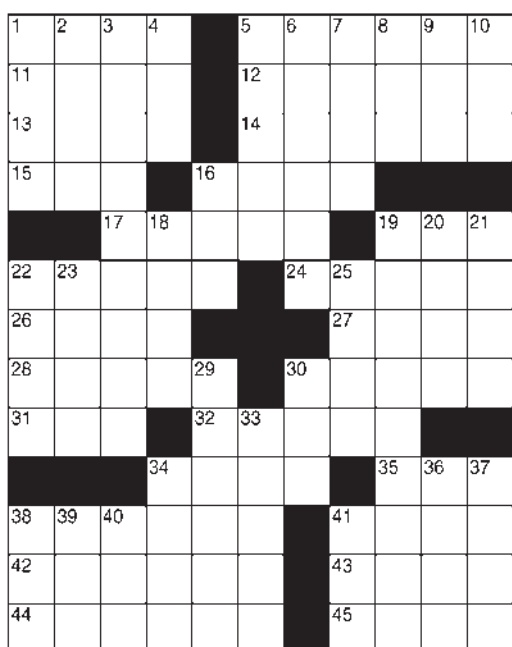
- 44 FBI employees
- 45 Coaster rider's cry

## DOWN

- 1 Obsessed captain
- 2 Easy gait
- 3 Softball variety
- 4 Woodsman's tool
- 5 Wizards
- 6 Gives an address
- 7 Take it easy
- 8 Penny prez
- 9 Chest protector
- 10 — Paulo
- 16 Painter Vermeer
- 18 Diner dish
- 19 Desperate
- 20 Goofing off
- 21 Turn suddenly
- 22 Writer Seton
- 23 Sailor's septet
- 25 Falafel holder
- 29 Summer top
- 30 Unconscious
- 31 Thigh muscles
- 34 Check a UPC
- 36 Celtic letter
- 37 Pants part
- 38 "So that's it!"
- 39 Machinery part
- 40 Really impress
- 41 Spotted



Yesterday's answer



2-28

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-28

## CRYPTOQUOTE

CYBD SHODK MYAE KYAC

IEHLC YAJ KEYS RJK VRZRUF

GCHID. — NYEH UDHCD

VAEKJYU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THEY WHO GIVE HAVE ALL THINGS; THEY WHO WITHHOLD HAVE NOTHING. — INDIAN SAYING

# Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

# Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

## Supermarket hours

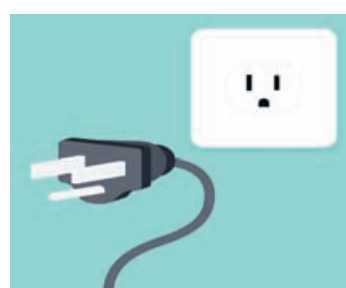


Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

## Electrical power



## Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

## Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# The number of rhinos is slightly up but poaching has increased too



A black rhino, on the Red List of Threatened Species according to IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), eats grass at Nairobi National Park, on the outskirts of Nairobi, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Associated Press

By **EVELYNE MUSAMBI**

Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — The rhino population across the world has increased slightly but so have the killings, mostly in South Africa, as poaching fed by huge demand for rhino horns remains a top threat, conservationists said in a new report.

The number of white rhinos increased from 15,942 in 2022 to 17,464 in 2023, but the black and greater one-horned rhino stayed the same, according to the report published by the International Rhino Foundation ahead of Sunday's World Rhino Day.

Another subspecies, the northern white rhino, is technically extinct with only two females being kept in a secure private conservancy in Kenya, known as Ol Pejeta. A trial is ongoing to develop embryos in the lab from an egg and sperm previously collected from white rhinos and transferring it into a surrogate female black rhino. A total of 586 rhinos were killed in Africa in 2023, most of them in South Africa — which has the highest population of rhinos at an estimated 16,056. The killings increased from 551 reported in 2022, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

With all five subspecies combined, there are just under 28,000 rhinos left in the world,

from 500,000 at the beginning of the 20th century.

Rhinos face various environmental threats like habitat loss due to development and climate change but poaching, based on the belief that their horns have medicinal uses, remains the top threat. Philip Muruthi, the vice president for species conservation at the Africa Wildlife Foundation, said protection has played a big role in increasing rhino population. In Kenya, their numbers rose from 380 in 1986 to 1,000 last year, he said. "Why has that happened? Because the rhinos were brought into sanctuaries and were protected," Muruthi advocates

for a campaign that will end the demand for rhino horn as well as adoption of new technology in tracking and monitoring rhinos for their protection while also educating communities where they live on the benefits of rhinos to the ecosystem and the economy.

Known as mega herbivores that mow the parks and create inroads for other herbivores, rhinos are also good for establishing forests by ingesting seeds and spreading them across the parks in their dung.

Murithi lamented that the northern white rhino — whose only two females are left in the world — should

have never gotten so close to the brink of extinction. "Don't get the numbers to where it's very expensive to recover and we are not even sure that it will happen," he said.

The body of the last male northern white rhino — named Sudan — that died in 2018 has been preserved and displayed at the Museums of Kenya in Nairobi.

A research scientist and curator of mammals at the museum, Bernard Agwanda, said preserving Sudan will tell the story of how the species lived among humans and why conservation is important. "So we expect that the northern white rhino behind us here is going to live for one or two centuries to be able to tell its story for generations to come," he said. □

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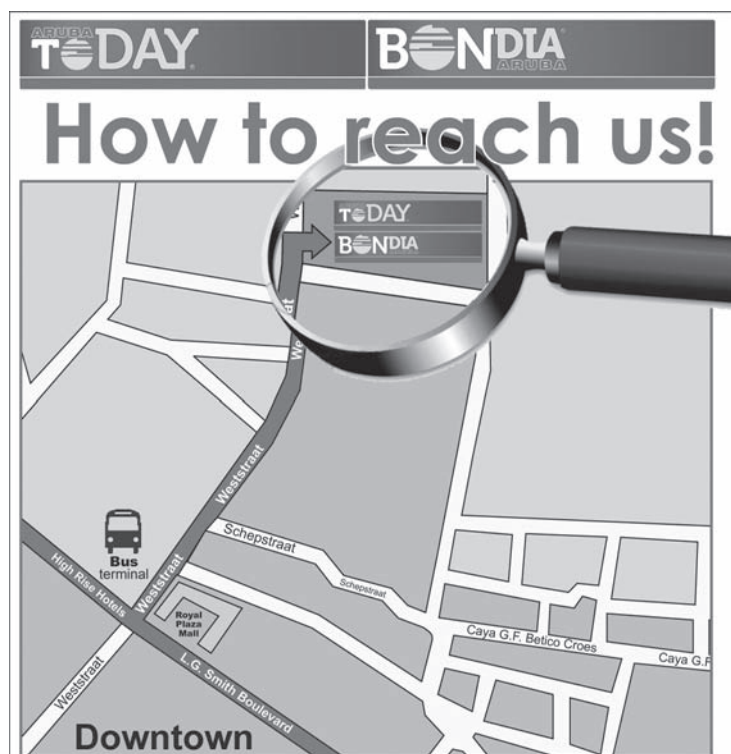
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# Saquon Barkley's 2 fourth-quarter TDs lift Eagles over Saints in a defensive 15-12 thriller

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Saquon Barkley and the Eagles emerged from a flood of Philadelphia-style scrutiny and delivered a masterclass on grinding out — and closing out — a physical, defensive struggle in which a lot went wrong before it ended just right.

Barkley rushed for fourth-quarter touchdowns of 65 and 4 yards, and the Eagles rebounded from a maddening late-game collapse six days earlier to beat the previously surging New Orleans Saints, 15-12 on Sunday.

"Last week was rough. Our guys had to pick ourselves off the mat, and every one of them did," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said, alluding to a 22-21 home loss to Atlanta on Monday night. "You have to overcome those things. I'm so proud of those guys that they did."

Barkley's shorter scoring run came with 1:01 left, one play after Dallas Goedert got free across the middle on third-and-16 for a 61-yard catch and run that gave him a career-high 170 yards on 10 receptions.

Barkley's 147 yards rushing and clutch scoring runs brought him no small measure of redemption after his failure to make what could have been a game-sealing catch against the Falcons. "When things like that happen, everyone thinks the world's ending, but it really



**Philadelphia Eagles running back Saquon Barkley (26) runs 65 yards for a touchdown as New Orleans Saints cornerback Marshon Lattimore (23) gives chase in the second half of an NFL football game in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.**

Associated Press

doesn't matter what the outside world thinks," Barkley said. "Today, we kept trusting each other and kept having each other's back."

Eagles safety Reed Blankenship sealed the victory by intercepting Derek Carr's pass over the middle with 48 seconds left, capping a banner performance by Philadelphia's defense against an offense that had scored an NFL-high 91 points during the regular season's first two weeks under new coordinator Klint Kubiak.

"You knew adversity would happen at some point. It's not going to be that easy all the time," Carr said, adding that he regretted not throw-

ing away the second-down pass that Blankenship intercepted. "At the very end, they made one more play than we did and that's how this game goes sometimes." The Eagles (2-1) did not allow a touchdown until Carr found Chris Olave for a 12-yard, go-ahead score with just more than two minutes left. That gave the Saints a 12-7 lead after a failed 2-point try.

The Eagles looked the better team on both sides of the ball, outgaining New Orleans (2-1) in total net yards, 460 to 219. But a number of curious decisions by Sirianni, along with some clutch plays by the Saints' defense, kept the

Eagles off the board for three quarters.

Hurts finished 29 of 38 for 311 yards passing and scrambled for 25 yards. But he also turned the ball over twice in the first half, intercepted by Tyrann Mathieu in the end zone and losing a fumble on a sack by Carl Granderson. The Eagles again threatened to score late in the second quarter, only to come away empty when they eschewed a field goal on fourth-and-1 from the New Orleans 15 with just 14 seconds left.

Defensive end Chase Young and linebacker Pete Werner stuffed Barkley's run, preserving the Saints' 3-0 lead at halftime.

The Eagles twice drove into Saints territory in the third quarter, only to fail on fourth-and-short and then have an illegal substitution penalty contribute to a stall near midfield.

But after J.T. Gray's block of Braden Mann's punt gave New Orleans the ball inside the Philadelphia 30, New Orleans stalled out on their own fourth-and-1 failure when they otherwise could have tried a field goal late in the third quarter.

"I was trying to win the game and I felt like we needed to be able to get a yard," Allen said. "They did a better job up front than we did."

Barkley's long run came four plays later to make it 7-3.

"He kind of cut back to the left and there was nobody there," Saints safety Tyrann Mathieu said, noting that an untimely blitz left few defenders in position to pursue the Eagles' star running back. "It's like, off to the races. Great play by him, great vision by him." Already missing receiver A.J. Brown, the Eagles lost Devonta Smith early in the fourth quarter on a hit by defensive tackle Khristian Boyd that knocked the receiver's helmet off as he tried to prevent two other Saints defenders from bringing him to the turf.

What appeared to be a concussion-causing, helmet-to-helmet hit came after Smith's seventh catch, giving him 79 yards receiving for the game. □

## Billy Horschel's eagle seals BMW PGA Championship win in playoff with McIlroy

**VIRGINIA WATER, England**

**(AP)** — Billy Horschel became the first American golfer to win the BMW PGA Championship twice when he holed a brilliant eagle to beat four-time major winner Rory McIlroy in a playoff on Sunday. Horschel showed no sign of nerves when he sank a long putt from near the edge of the green on the second playoff hole, and then hugged McIlroy warmly.

"It's always one of my most special weeks of the year. I enjoy coming here. I feel a

sense of ease, I feel a sense of calm," the 37-year-old Horschel said.

"I know I'm not from the U.K. or London or England but I feel almost at home when I come here."

Horschel won at Virginia Water three years ago. This year, he was locked in second place overnight with McIlroy, and they were both three strokes behind leader Matteo Manassero of Italy. While Manassero fell back, they both carded 5-under 67s to join South African Thriston

Lawrence — who posted a clinical 65 on the day — at 20 under and force a three-way playoff.

After they went back to the 18th at the storied West Course, Lawrence dropped out of contention after bogeying, while McIlroy and Horschel had birdies. But McIlroy was beaten on the next hole.

"It just shows the standard out here. If you slip up just a little bit or don't make a birdie on a crucial hole, someone is always waiting to take ad-



**Billy Horschel of the U.S. displays the trophy following day four of the PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Club in Virginia Water, England, Sunday Sept. 22, 2024.**

Associated Press

vantage of that," McIlroy said. "Two weeks in a row, I've played well. Just not quite well enough."

The No. 3-ranked Northern Irishman, who won the event in 2014, now has three runner-up finishes at Wentworth. □



# Thomas' triple-double leads Connecticut to win over Indiana and Caitlin Clark in WNBA playoff opener

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) —

Alyssa Thomas always raises her play in the postseason. Thomas had her fourth career triple-double in the playoffs and 15th overall to spoil Caitlin Clark's postseason debut as the Connecticut Sun beat the Indiana Fever 93-69 on Sunday in Game 1 of their best-of-three series. The Sun's star finished with 12 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds.

"We did what we were supposed to do. I've been waiting all season for the playoffs, this is what you're playing for," said Thomas, who had a triple-double in the regular season opener this year, also against Indiana. "This is just the beginning for us, we're ready to go."

DeWanna Bonner, who finished with 22 points, has been there for all of Thomas' postseason stat-sheet stuffing games.

"She gets us in places that we need to be during important times," Bonner said. "The way she reads the game and sees the floor. ... It's an advantage to have a player that can pass the ball, direct the game, defend and literally play for 40 minutes. Our team doesn't go without her. "We wouldn't be in this position each and every year. This is her time, every year." Marina Mabrey led the third-seeded Sun with 27 points, 20 of which came in the second half. Her 27 points are the most by a reserve in the playoffs, according to ESPN. Game 2 is Wednesday night in Connecticut with a potential decisive third game in Indiana on Friday night, if necessary.

Clark, who earlier in the day was announced as the AP Rookie of the Year, finished with 11 points, recovering from a rough start. She also had eight assists. Kelsey Mitchell scored 21 points and Aliyah Boston added 17 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana.

"We didn't play well, didn't play to the level we're capable of playing," Clark said. "We didn't shoot the ball like we're capable of. We're capable of winning this game."

The Sun came into the contest with 222 playoff games under their belt while the Fever had just 19, including none among the starters. This was Indiana's first appearance in the playoffs since 2016. Connecticut head coach Stephanie White was in charge of the Fever that year.

The lack of experience didn't seem to rattle the Fever early. It also probably helped that like most Fever road games this season, nearly half the crowd — many of whom were wearing Clark shirts — cheered on everything they did.

After a back-and-forth first 16 minutes, Indiana led 36-34 with 3:45 left in the first half. The Sun then took over, closing

the opening 20 minutes on a 12-2 run.

Bonner had four points and an emphatic block of a Clark layup during the spurt. Bonner finished the opening 20 minutes with 16 points. Clark had a quiet first half with just three points, making one of her nine shots.

She missed her first two shots of the third quarter before the Fever called timeout. Clark smacked the bench in frustration. That seemed to get her going as she made her next three shots to try and rally the Fever, but it wasn't enough as Mabrey matched her shot for shot, scoring 11 points in the third. Clark finished 4 for 17.

The first half also had a bit of everything with a stoppage



Connecticut Sun's Alyssa Thomas (25), Veronica Burton (22) and Marina Mabrey (4) react after a basket during a first-round WNBA basketball playoff game against the Indiana Fever at Mohegan Sun Arena, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

Associated Press

48 seconds into the game for Indiana to challenge a foul

called on the wrong player. They were successful. □



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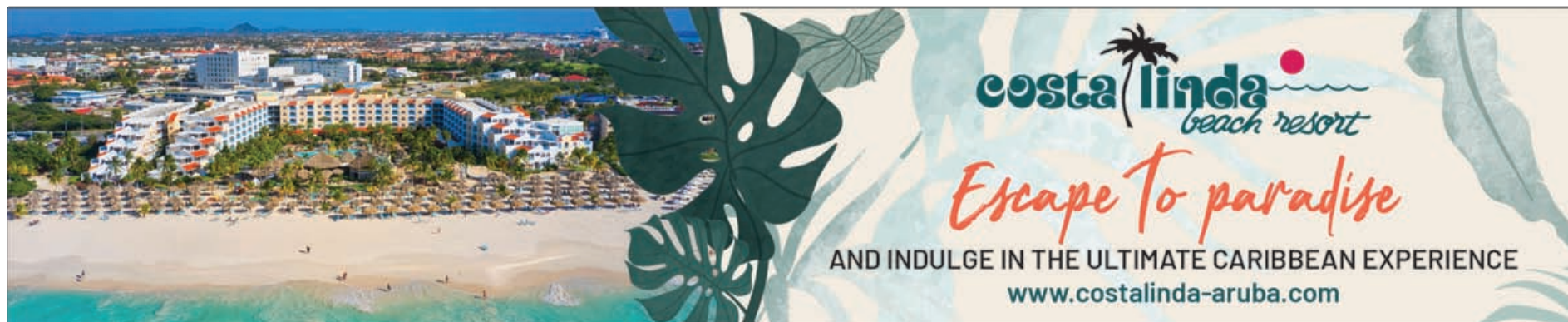


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**Eagle Beach –** When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

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### Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy

Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with choco-



late sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

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Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

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Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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